Application No. 10/025,249   Customer No. 01933
Response to Office Action

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a detecting section which detects that a lifetime of an expendable used to form images is expiring, based on only one
5   parameter;

a counting section which counts a used amount of the expendable, from a time when the detecting section detects that the lifetime of the expendable is expiring; and

a control section which disregards ~~the fact~~ a subsequent
10   detection by the detecting section that the lifetime of the expendable is expiring, ~~even when the fact is detected again before~~ until the counted used amount of the expendable ~~, which is counted by the counting section,~~ reaches a prescribed value.

2.   (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an interface ~~communicably~~ to be connected communicably to a computer installed at a seller of the expendable; and
5   ~~a mode storage section storing a mode in which~~ wherein an order for the expendable is automatically placed with the computer installed at the seller of the expendable, when the

-5-

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detecting section detects that the lifetime of the expendable is

expiring.

3.   (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according

to claim 1, further comprising:

a display section which displays a message when the

detecting section ~~detects again~~ makes the subsequent detection

that the lifetime is expiring.

4.   (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according

to claim 1, wherein the expendable ~~is~~ comprises a drum

incorporated in a process unit.

5.   (Original) An image forming apparatus according to

claim 4, wherein the used amount is a number of sheets printed by

using the drum.

6.   (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according

to claim 1, wherein the expendable ~~is~~ comprises toner contained

in a toner cartridge.

7.   (Original) An image forming apparatus according to

claim 6, wherein the used amount is an amount of the toner used.

-6-

8.   (Currently Amended) A method of operating an image

forming apparatus, comprising:

detecting that a lifetime of an expendable used to form

images is expiring, based on only one parameter;

5   counting a used amount of the expendable, from a time when

the detecting section detects that the lifetime of the expendable

is expiring; and

disregarding the fact a subsequent detection that the

lifetime of the expendable is expiring, even when the fact is

10   detected again before until the counted used amount of the

expendable , which is counted, reaches a prescribed value.

9.   (Currently Amended) A method of operating an image

forming apparatus, according to claim 8, further comprising:

automatically placing an order for the expendable with the a

computer installed at the a seller of the expendable, when the

5   counting section detects it is detected that the lifetime of the

expendable is expiring.

10.   (Currently Amended) A method of operating an image

forming apparatus, according to claim 8, further comprising:

displaying a message when the detecting section detects

again the subsequent detection that the lifetime of the

expendable is expiring occurs.

-7-

11.   (Currently Amended) A method of operating an image forming apparatus, according to claim 8, wherein the expendable ~~is~~ comprises a drum incorporated in a process unit.

12.   (Previously Presented) A method of operating an image forming apparatus, according to claim 11, wherein the used amount is a number of sheets printed by using the drum.

13.   (Currently Amended) A method of operating an image forming apparatus, according to claim 8, wherein the expendable comprises a toner cartridge containing toner.

14.   (Previously Presented) A method of operating an image forming apparatus, according to claim 13, wherein the used amount is an amount of the toner used.

-8-